

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2118

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 8007

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 4982

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 JERUSALEM 01781

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HABIB

IF RE-ESTABLISHED, MUST INCLUDE A PROHIBITION AGAINST
ATTACKS AGAINST JEWS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. I WENT OVER
WITH BEGIN THE REASONS WHY I HAD SAID LAST JULY THAT
THIS WAS NOT A REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE OURSELVES HOSTAGE TO THE
ACTIONS OF EXTREMISTS SUCH AS THOSE WE BELIEVE WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR ARGOV. I URGED
THAT BEGIN THINK MORE ABOUT THIS PROPOSITION AND NOT RPT
NOT MAKE IT A CONDITION AT THIS TIME. AMBASSADOR LEWIS
ADDED THAT WE MUST BE PRACTICAL; WE CAN'T HOPE TO SOLVE
EVERY ASPECT OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY PROBLEM WITH A SINGLE
AGREEMENT OR ARRANGEMENT.

8. BEGIN SAID THAT THE PLO HAD STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED

State Dept. review completed

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THAT THE ARRANGEMENT NEGOTIATED BY HABIB HAD APPLIED ONLY TO THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. I REPLIED THAT, WHATEVER THEIR PUBLIC POSITION, THEY HAD NOT QUIBBLED WITH MY FORMULATION THAT IT ALSO APPLIED TO ATTACKS MOUNTED THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES. I AGREED THAT, IF WE DO ACHIEVE A FURTHER CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, WE WILL PERHAPS HAVE TO BE MORE PRECISE THAN WE WERE LAST JULY. I REMINDED BEGIN THAT, AT THAT TIME, IT WAS ISRAELI OBJECTION TO THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PLO THAT SHAPED TO SOME DEGREE THE VAGUENESS OF WHAT WAS ACHIEVED. MAYBE, I CONCLUDED, WE HAVE ALL LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THAT EXPERIENCE AND WILL HAVE TO BE MORE PRECISE IN THE AGREEMENT AND PROCEDURES SHOULD ANOTHER ARRANGEMENT BE NEGOTIATED. IN THE END, BEGIN AGREED NOT TO MAKE HIS REQUIREMENT REGARDING ATTACKS AGAINST JEWS ANYWHERE A FORMAL POSITION AT THIS TIME. HE DID NOT COMMENT ON MY STATEMENT THAT ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION TO CONTEMPLATE IS WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE IS APPROPRIATE IN CASES OF TERRORISM CARRIED OUT BY THE LUNATIC FRINGE.

9. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN LONDON TODAY, BEGIN SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S POINTS REGARDING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND THE NEED TO STAMP OUT TERRORISM.

10. I ASKED BEGIN HOW WE WOULD DETERMINE THE AREA IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN WHICH AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE MIGHT OPERATE> HE REPLIED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE GLAD TO DRAW A LINE 40 KILOMETERS FROM THE BDRDER. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT ISRAELI FORCES ARE NOW BEYOND THAT LINE, SHAMIR AND BEGIN SAID THESE ARE "TACTICAL" POSITIONS. BEGIN STATED STRONGLY THAT IT IS NOT AN ISRAELI OBJECTIVE TO PRESS MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH THE GOAL OF DOING AWAY WITH THE PLO ENTIRELY. IDF ELEMENTS ARE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF DAMOUR, HE SAID, BUT ISRAEL DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO TAKE DAMOUR EVEN THOUGH IT

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WAS ORIGINALLY A CHRISTIAN TOWN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, BEGIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IDF WOULD PULL BACK TO 40-KILOMETER LINE ASSIS FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HADDAD'S ENCLAVE UNDER NEW SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, BEGIN SAID THIS IS FOR THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE.

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11. BEFORE DEPARTING, I TOLD BEGIN THAT BEFORE THE CURRENT FIGHTING IT HAD BEEN MY INTENTION TO COME TO THE AREA TO DISCUSS LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO LEBANON'S PROBLEMS. IF WE ARE ABLE TO BRING THE CURRENT SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, THOSE LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS WILL STILL BE THERE AND WE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THEM WITH ISRAEL AND OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. BEGIN NODDED.

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12. WE AGREED THAT SHOULD A RESPONSE FROM THE SYRIANS BE RECEIVED OVERNIGHT, WE WOULD CONTACT FONMIN SHAMIR WHO WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO WAKE BEGIN. GROVE
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